

EXPEDITE

[Handwritten signature]

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Comments and Observations About
New Party Secretary in Kalisz

DATE DISTR.

8 APR 1961

NO. PAGES

1

REFERENCES

RD

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE &
DATE ACQ

50X1-HUM

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

50X1-HUM

8

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

STATE	#	X	ARMY	#	X	NAVY	#	X	AIR	#	X	NSA	#	X	OCR				
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")																			

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

5
4
3
2
1

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY : Poland

DATE DISTR. 20 Mar. 1961

SUBJECT : Comments and Observations About
New Party Secretary in Kalisz

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF INFORMATION :

REFERENCES:

PLACE ACQUIRED :

50X1-HUM

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

-2-

Assignment of New Party Secretariat to Kalisz

1. A new party secretary [redacted] was assigned to Kalisz in March 1960. [redacted] Kalisz had long had a reputation of being one of the two most reactionary and religious cities in Poland (the other being Krakow), and it was generally understood that one of the principal tasks of the new secretary was to clean up this situation. The previous party secretary, (fnu) SMILOWSKI, had been tolerant and permissive and had run a relaxed PZPR organization. Originally from Kalisz, Smilowski had become Secretary of the PZPR City Committee when GOMULKA came to power in October 1956; he had replaced in that position a Stalinist by the name of (fnu) WAROCH.
2. Almost as soon as the new secretary came to Kalisz, the local communists split into two groups, the younger 20-35 year age group supporting him, and the older members strongly opposed. In general, the new secretary's Stalinist and activist temperament appealed to the younger element, whereas the older group did not like the strong, hard approach. The more conservative older communists were also deeply resentful that an outsider (i.e., someone from outside Kalisz) had been brought in to head their PZPR organization. Shortly after the new man arrived, a pro forma election was held in the City Party Executive Committee for First Secretary. The new man won, of course, but the discussions and election stirred up much bitterness within the Kalisz City PZPR Organization. Including the Executive Committee, and the split between the two camps was 50X1-HUM further exacerbated. [redacted] in August 1960, these arguments and bitterness were still continuing. The leader of the opposition group, or the pro-Gomulka faction, was Tadeusz IWANICKI, [redacted] Director of the Kalisz Ceramic Building Materials Plant (Kaliskie Zaklady Ceramiczne Budowlanej - KZCB), and member of 50X1-HUM the Kalisz PZPR Executive Committee. The new secretary put considerable pressure on Iwanicki in the Executive Committee, but the latter had strong support 50X1-HUM somewhere in the Central Committee in Warsaw [redacted] Iwanicki made several trips to the capital during this period), and also had an excellent reputation in industry as an executive and administrator. As a result of the tense situation, however, he changed his approach somewhat. Whereas formerly, under Smilowski, he had paid little attention to his factory and devoted most of his time to PZPR affairs, now he reversed this and concentrated almost exclusively on the factory to ensure that nothing in its direction and operation could be open to criticism. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
3. [redacted] the new PZPR secretary instigated a number of changes in the local communist organization. Most of these concerned the placement in appropriate positions of persons favorable to him; a new chief was named for the Propaganda Section.

Anti-Religious Measures Taken by New Secretary

4. During his first few months in office the new secretary took a number of steps, in line with his general task of cracking down on religion. Some of these were as follows:
 - a. The Catholic order of Nazareth nuns conducts a convent school (Gimnazjum Zenskie S.S. Nazaretanek) in Kalisz. This is one of the two remaining schools of this type in Poland (the other is in Czestochowa). Of a total student body of some 360 girls, approximately one-sixth, or about 60, were daughters of party members. One of the first orders issued by the new secretary was that PZPR members were no longer to send their daughters to this school. Most of the children from communist families

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

-3-

were daughters of workers whose positions were secure enough to enable them to ignore safely the secretary's directive. Some PZPR parents, however, did become concerned, and about eight girls were withdrawn as a result of the order.

- b. It is common practice in Kalisz, as elsewhere in Poland, for Catholics to display crosses in stores and shops and at their places of work. The new secretary wanted these crosses removed, but implementing such a move was a delicate matter. Attempts to do this in 1948-49 resulted in open fights and riots, and although the number of crosses was eventually reduced considerably, they all reappeared in 1956 when Gomulka came to power. The new Kalisz secretary accordingly moved cautiously and was able to achieve only a partial measure of success. It was relatively easy to bring about the removal of crosses from stores and smaller factories, but most of the workers in the larger factories refused to take down their crosses and it was impossible to force them to do so. The women were particularly adamant in this regard, and almost all of their crosses stayed in place. In cases where an individual felt he was helpless to oppose PZPR pressure too strongly, a common reply to the communist official was, "If you don't like the cross, you take it down yourself; I won't touch it."
- c. In Poland the August 15 religious holiday of the Ascension of the Virgin Mary is by tradition the occasion for pilgrimages from all parts of the country to the famous monastery at Jasna Gora in Czestochowa. Irrespective of whether the pilgrims travel by vehicle or traditionally make the whole journey on foot, all of the groups which officially represent specific localities are headed by the local parish priests. Kalisz, always a strong religious center, regularly participated in this annual pilgrimage by arranging to send anywhere from 600 to 1000 persons by foot. The new party secretary, as part of his anti-religious campaign, in 1960 prohibited the formation of an official pilgrimage from Kalisz. Although he was not in a position to prevent people from going individually to Czestochowa, his order did effectively prevent the priests from leading an official Kalisz pilgrimage. Despite the secretary's order, however, when time for the pilgrimage arrived, some 200 persons assembled at the main church and, led by a woman carrying a cross, began their trek on foot to Czestochowa. Most of the pilgrims were women and students (boys and girls under 18 years of age). The day before the holiday additional persons left for Czestochowa by vehicle. When the latter group returned to Kalisz on August 16, they brought with them a large wooden cross one meter and a half high, and proudly paraded around the city with it. After the foot pilgrims returned a few days later, virtually the whole city turned out to greet them and to stage a demonstration in their honor.
- d. It has been the custom in Kalisz for a number of local musicians to prepare a festive musical program on the occasion of Ascension Day of Virgin Mary. One individual in particular had always been the prime organizer and moving spirit for this affair. Some two to three months before the 1960 holiday the new PZPR secretary arranged to have this man put in jail under some pretext. Even though he was imprisoned without trial, the musician was resourceful enough to successfully organize and stage a complete holiday musical program for this occasion.

 Comment

50X1-HUM

Piotr Korbik was appointed Kalisz Party First Secretary in March 1960.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L